ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I place on record my deep sense of gratitude to Dr S. Indumati, Vice Chancellor, Davanagere University, Davanagere, Karnataka State, and Professor of Economics, Department of Studies in Economics and Co-operation for her excellent guidance, constant encouragement and thoughtful suggestions. Her cordial treatment, exemplary care and timely help solicited throughout the course of investigation are duly remembered.

I also place my sincere gratitude to Prof. M. Madaiah, Former Vice-chancellor, University of Mysore for all his kind support and encouragement. I am grateful to Dr. S.B. Dandin, Former Director and Dr. S.M.H. Qadri, Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute (CSRTI), Mysore for sponsoring my candidature for pursuing research at the University of Mysore and for all the support extended.

I wish to thank the teaching and non-teaching faculty of the Department of Studies in Economics and Co-operation, University of Mysore for their cooperation and encouragement. I also express my sincere thanks to Dr. N.B. Vijayaprakash, Director, Seri-Biotech Research Laboratory, Kodathi, Bangalore for all the help provided, when he was serving at CSRTI, Mysore.

I faithfully acknowledge the valuable support and encouragement rendered by Dr. S.B. Magadum, Scientist-D & Divisional Chief, SEEM Division and the team of senior scientists, viz., Sri. B. Nagaraj, Dr. T. Thippeswamy and Sri. R.K. Subramaniam of Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute (CSR & TI), Mysore, for conducting the study.

I am highly indebted to Mr. P. Kumaresan, Scientist, CSR & TI, Mysore, Dr. G. Srinivasa, Scientist, NSSO, Bangalore, Dr. P.K. Das, Scientist, RSRS, Chamarajanagar, Dr. K. Bhogesha, Scientist, SSPC, Mysore, Dr. D. Manjunath, DOS in Sericulture, University of Mysore, and Dr. Chikkanna, Scientist, CSR & TI, Mysore for their generous and timely help in all matters during the course of the study.

I also place on record my sincere thanks to Sri. M.N.S. Iyengar, Ex Joint Director (Retd.), CSR & TI, Mysore, Prof. Lalith Achoth, Department of Dairy
Economics, Dairy Science College, Hebbal, Bangalore, Dr. P. Ramasundaram, Principal Scientist, ICAR and Sri. C.P. Sarashetti, Ex Deputy General Manager (Retd.), Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd., Bangalore, for their constant encouragement to pursue the task. I sincerely thank Sri. T. Shashidhar, District Statistical Officer, Chickmagalur, for providing the required information for the study and enlightening me by sharing his experience. I thank my colleague Sri. R. Krupashnakar, Technical Assistant, REC, Sub Unit, Central Silk Board Shimoga for his cooperation during the period of the study.

My sincere thanks are also due to Dr. S. Latha, Ms. C. Hemavathi, Dr. Navitha Thimmaiah, Ms. Sarah Razack and all other friends for their assistance in bringing a final shape to the thesis.

Support from my family members is immense and I am highly indebted to my parents, Sri. H. Hanumanthaiah and Smt. K. Rangamma, who have shown me the way of life and have been the guiding force, for my accomplishments. I am grateful to my in-laws, Sri. B. L. Subrahmanya and Smt. Sathyavathi for their encouragement throughout the study. My wife Smt. B.S. Vinutha and my son Chi. Abhishek Jayaram, have borne all the difficulties and have encouraged me throughout the study period. No words can match the love and affection shown by my other family members. I am thankful to my brother Sri. H. Prakash, sister-in-law Smt. Asha Prakash, Sister Smt. H.Geethadevi and brother-in-law Sri. H.B. Khadripathi for their valuable support and encouragement. My co-brothers Sri. K.H. Raju and Sri. D.M. Raju, who stood with me as guiding force and extended constant support to accomplish this work, I thank them sincerely. Similarly I owe a great lot of respects to my sister-in-laws Smt. Mamatha Raju and Smt. Sunitha Raju. I have had the support from Sri. H.K. Avinash, Sri. Adithya Prakash, Kumari Ananya Prakash, Chi. Aakash and Chi. Vishnu K. Raj and I am highly thankful to them.

I also thank M/s Softouch, Saraswathipuram, Mysore for their neat alignment and presentation of the thesis.

JAYARAM. H